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SUBJECT: JAPANESE MORNING PRESS HIGHLIGHTS 08/04/09

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Prime Minister's schedule, August 3

NIKKEI (Page 2) (Full)

August 4, 2009

07:35

Took a walk near official residential quarters

10:32

Met Chief Cabinet Secretary Takeo Kawamura at Prime Minister's

Official Residence (Kantei)

11:00

Met Lower House member Masayoshi Namiki; followed by Junzo Yamamoto, secretary general of Japanese members of Asian-Pacific Parliamentarians' Union

13:03

Filming of policy declaration, TV commercial for Lower House election at LDP headquarters; accompanied by Jiro Aichi, LDP Publicity Division chief, others; joined by Yoshinobu Shimamura, special assistant to LDP president

16:32

Tea party at Imperial Palace with officials who accompanied Emperor, Empress on tour of Canada, U.S.

18:10

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Met Kawamura at Kantei

19:32

Went through documents at personal office in Nagata-cho

20:06

Met secretary at Korean barbecue restaurant "Kantera" in Daizawa

22:37

Arrived at official residential quarters

ELECTION CAMPAIGN

4) Pre-election poll: DPJ steady at 34% in public preference for proportional representation, LDP flat at 16%

TOKYO SHIMBUN (Page 2) (Full)

August 4, 2009

Ahead of the upcoming general election for the now-dissolved House of Representatives, Kyodo News conducted a pre-election telephone-based nationwide public opinion survey on Aug. 1-2. In the public preference of political parties for proportional representation, the Democratic Party of Japan marked 34.4%, up 3.7 points from the last survey taken July 25-26. The Liberal Democratic Party was at 16.7%, up 1.1 points. The DPJ has been steady, scoring over 30% in the first pre-election poll taken July 18-19 and in the following two polls up to the latest one. However, the LDP has been flat at the 10% range.

After the last poll, both the LDP and the DPJ announced their respective manifestos or public pledges for the general election. However, the LDP's announcement of its manifesto seems to have little worked well on the public. The proportion of "undecided" voters was 37.6% (37.4% in the last poll).

In the public preference of governing parties as well, the DPJ outdistanced the LDP, with 39.7% desiring a "DPJ-led coalition government" (38.6% in the last poll) and 18.2% choosing an "LDP-led coalition government" (18.6% in the last poll).

5) Sharp decline in voter turnouts among young people: Vicious circle caused by politics slighting them; Number of voters in their twenties stands at half that of voters in their seventies in 2005 Lower House election

TOKYO SHIMBUN (Page 1) (Full)
Evening, August 3, 2009

It has long been pointed out that young people's political apathy is responsible for low voter turnouts. A sharp drop in turnouts among young people is more serious than low turnouts among voters in general. This trend is now drawing attention as the starting point of the vicious circle of politics slighting young people and young people further losing interest in politics.

The number of actual voters in their twenties in the 1980 Lower House election was approximately 10.065 million, while those in their seventies or older stood at roughly 4.65 million. The number of voters in their twenties was more than double the number of voters in their seventies or older.

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Voter turnouts among young people in their twenties have gradually declined since then, while turnouts of voters in their seventies or older have been hovering at around 70 percent. The rapid aging of the population resulting from the decline in the birthrate can be witnessed in elections during this timeframe.

As a result, the number of actual voters in their twenties in the previous 2005 Lower House election was roughly 7.22 million. In contrast, voters in their seventies totalled about 14.28 million, or double the number of voters in their twenties.

Waseda University Professor Tomonori Morikawa, who has researched the relationship between the number of voters and policies, pointed out that the trendline in the number of voters is reflected in policy-making by the government. He said, "It is only natural for those allocating budgetary funds to give generous consideration to those age groups who go to polling places for sure." Given the manifestos of major political parties for the next general election, there are many policies that target elderly people or child-rearing generations in their thirties or over. However, there are few policies that provide money to those in their twenties, as Morikawa said. Major political parties are vying with cash handouts. This means passing the buck to young generations.

The only way to end this political trend of slighting young people is perhaps to see more young people vote.

6) DPJ officially endorses 269 candidates in single-seat constituencies; Ozawa to run in Iwate No. 4 district

MAINICHI (Page 5) (Full)
August 4, 2009

The Democratic Party of Japan decided in a meeting yesterday of its senior officials to officially endorse Deputy President Ichiro Ozawa as a candidate to run in the No. 4 district in Iwate Prefecture, and Yokohama City Assembly member Makoto Yamazaki, 46, as a candidate to run in the No. 8 district in Kanagawa Prefecture in the upcoming House of Representatives election. As a result, the DPJ has endorsed a total of 269 candidates in the (300) single-seat constituencies. Ozawa told the press corps yesterday evening in Miyazaki City: "We have decided on all our candidates," declaring the end of selecting candidates for the electoral districts.

DPJ recommends 24 candidates

Of the 31 districts in which the DPJ will not field any candidates, it will recommend candidates on the Social Democratic Party ticket or the People's New Party ticket in 24 districts. Including the 24 candidates it will recommend, the DPJ will field and recommend candidates in 293 electoral districts. The number of candidates is almost the same as the number (291) the party fielded and recommended in the single-seat constituencies in the Lower House election in 2005.

When Ozawa headed the DPJ, there was a rumor that he would run in the No. 12 district in Tokyo, which is New Komeito leader Akihiro Ota's home turf. After he resigned as LDP president, the opportunity to switch to another electoral district faded away. The Kanagawa No. 8 district is the home turf of Kenji Eda (independent), who works closely with former Administrative Reform Minister Yoshimi Watanabe. In order to avoid competing with Eda, the DPJ refrained from

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fielding a candidate for the Kanagawa No.8 seat.

On his party's policy shift in the Kanagawa No. 8 district, Ozawa said:

"If Mr. Watanabe forms a new party, Mr. Eda will likely join it. Things would be different if we had complete cooperation (with the new party). They have not formed a party yet, and we have had no discussions."

7) Lower House election: DPJ going astray over its manifesto

MAINICHI (Page 2) (Full)
August 4, 2009

The Democratic Party of Japan's (DPJ) discussions on revisions to its manifesto for the Lower House election (campaign pledges) are beginning to meander off track. The party at its executive meeting on August 3 vowed to add the establishment of a consultative body for the central and local governments, which the governor of Osaka has requested in connection with decentralization reforms.

Participants also called for revising wording on the signing of a free trade agreement with the U.S. The leadership intends to consider these requests flexibly, based on opinions voiced at the manifesto briefings, as a senior member said. However, if the DPJ makes the revisions, the ruling parties may criticize it as becoming inconsistent, depending on what decisions the DPJ actually reaches.

Referring to the consultative body for the central and local governments, Policy Research Council Chairman Masayuki Naoshima on the 3rd told reporters, "Since the president says that he will include it, based on a political decision, we intend to write it in. He revealed, "To be honest, we feel awkward, because only that proposal has drawn attention in discussions on decentralization."

The manifesto revision uproar was triggered by President Hatoyama's statement made two days after the manifesto was released. He said, "The released manifesto is not a formal one." He made that statement, giving consideration to Hashimoto's strong opposition of the omission of the consultative body for the central and local governments.

Even so, party executives had at first been determined only to revise the parts related to decentralization. That is because they were concerned that Governor Hashimoto's words and action could affect the situation in constituencies in Osaka. Then the Japan-U.S. FTA issue cropped up as another source of contention.

The LDP agricultural policy clique on July 28 issued a statement criticizing the DPJ's manifesto in connection with the FTA issue, saying, "Such a pact will lead Japanese agriculture and farm villages to a collapse." Agricultural policy-related lawmakers of the DPJ raised a sense of alarm that the DPJ might suffer a setback in the battle to secure farmers' votes.

Deputy President Naoto Kan during a press conference on the 29th categorically said, "We will not lower tariffs on major crops." The DPJ also promptly posted a statement on that intention on the party's website. A lawmaker who attended the executive meeting on the 3rd indicated the view that the party will revise the proposal concerning the FTA as well.

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The executive has yet to determine to what extent opinions heard at manifesto briefings, which are to be held throughout the nation until the 11th, should be reflected. Deputy President Ichiro Ozawa will meet Governor Hashimoto on the 4th. When asked by reporters about the aim of their meeting, he expressed his displeasure, saying, "Our meeting has nothing to do with the manifesto or anything like that."

8) Interview with Jitsuro Terashima: Use "yuai (fraternity)" as diplomatic weapon; the world seeks dialogue

ASAHI (Page 4) (Full)
August 4, 2009

Interview with Jitsuro Terashima, honorary chairman of Japan Research Institute, president of Mitsui Global Strategic Studies Institute, and president of Tama University, by Shuichi Honda

Democratic Party of Japan (DPJ) President Yukio Hatoyama advocates "yuai (fraternal) diplomacy" as the party goes into the general election campaign. However, it remains unclear how this will be reflected in policies if the DPJ takes over the reins of government. We asked Jitsuro Terashima, honorary chairman of Japan Research Institute, who is a close friend of Hatoyama and who has advised him on domestic politics and foreign policy over the years, on how the yuai policy will be translated into concrete policy and other issues.

Q: What do you think of the situation Japan is in at present?

Terashima: Today, no one thinks of the world in terms of unipolar domination by the United States. We are in a non-polar era where every country participates in the world order, such as in the case of the G-20. Japan is making a choice in the upcoming House of Representatives election under such a situation. Even people who supported the two-thirds (of the Lower House members) who were elected during Koizumi's election over postal privatization are now doubtful of neo-liberalism. Therefore, a new method of exercising leadership is needed.

Q: Are you saying cooperating with the U.S. alone will no longer work?

Terashima: I would call it having close relations with the U.S. while being actively engaged in Asia or "shinbei nyua." The Japan-U.S. alliance needs to evolve while the world searches for a new order. It is abnormal for foreign troops to be stationed in an independent country for over 60 years. Unless Japan brings about a gradual reduction of the U.S. military presence in Japan and revises the bilateral Status of Forces Agreement (SOFA), it cannot claim to be an independent country. Japan should send a serious message about the trend for denuclearization of Northeast Asia and develop a new mode of Japan-U.S. defense cooperation on the premise that a military vacuum will not be created.

Q: Is it your position that a DPJ administration will be necessary for this purpose?

Terashima: I cannot give a straightforward answer to that question. The possibility of a reverse two-thirds majority, like in the case of the "Koizumi children" in the last election, cannot be discounted. The important thing is that a healthy two-party system

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is taking root. Rather than saying I want the DPJ to win, I pin my greatest hopes on a political realignment based on policy.

Q: What is your relationship with President Hatoyama like?

Terashima: We have known each other for a long time. I once said jokingly that Yukio Hatoyama is Jesus Christ, who continued to talk about love in a land of brutality and was eventually killed by the Roman Empire. But then, people started to think that he was a good guy. He moved people's hearts and changed the world.

Q: Mr Hatoyama advocates "yuai diplomacy."

Terashima: It would appear to be absurd to talk about "yuai" in international politics, but ironically, the world as a whole seeks dialogue and cooperation, which is a coincidence. The question is what comes next. If he surpasses the kind of "yuai" during the time of his grandfather (the late Prime Minister Ichiro Hatoyama) and arms himself theoretically on diplomacy with the neighboring countries, with the U.S., and with Eurasia, then "yuai" will be transformed from something hollow into something real.

Q: What sort of advice have you given to Mr Hatoyama recently?

Terashima: He should develop an ideological axis underpinning his policies. For example, when implementing the child allowance, the

ideology of creating a Scandinavian type of welfare society and raising children by the entire society will be necessary. Politics is all about choice and focus. Degeneration will result in pork barrel politics.

The times are moving toward populism. Therefore, policies should be disciplined by ideology. Domestic politics is not separate from foreign policy. Japan's nation building should also become its diplomatic power.

Q: Is it a question of arming "yuai" with the theoretical backing?

Terashima: It will be pathetic if you simply look for something appropriate for the sake of theoretical armament. The press should ask incisive questions and policy think tanks must play an important role.

9) Japanese ambassador attends Ahmadinejad's recognition ceremony in Iran

YOMIURI (Page 4) (Full)
August 4, 2009

Vice-Foreign Minister Mitoji Yabunaka held a press conference yesterday in which he revealed that Ambassador to Iran Akio Shirota attended the recognition ceremony of President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad held in Iran on the same day. In the wake of heavy casualties in the social unrest in Iran over the presidential election, Foreign Minister Hirofumi Nakasone released a statement in June expressing concern. Yabunaka explained, "All foreign ambassadors received invitations."

NUCLEAR DIPLOMACY

10) "Journey of repentance" to offer apology by U.S. citizens, including veterans, causes controversy in U.S.

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ASAHI (Page 14) (Abridged)
August 3, 2009

Toshihiro Yamanaka, Seattle

Is it appropriate for U.S. citizens to offer a direct apology for the dropping of atomic bombs (on Hiroshima and Nagasaki)? A controversy has arisen over this question this summer in the State of Washington. Inspired by President Barack Obama's speech on a nuclear free world, a group of 17 U.S. citizens, including veterans, has planned a "journey of repentance." They are scheduled to arrive in Hiroshima on Aug. 3 and in Nagasaki on Aug. 7, though they are still taken aback by the strong reaction in the United States. They have decided, however, not to offer an apology.

The group of 17 U.S. citizens, ranging from a 15-year-old Tacoma high school girl to an 81-year-old man, left the United States in late July on a two-week trip to visit Tokyo, Iwakuni, Hiroshima, and Nagasaki.

One of the organizers is Tom Karlin, 73. He was a Navy petty officer stationed in Japan in 1957 when he visited a museum in Nagasaki. Shocked by the exhibits there, Karlin began anti-war activities after returning to the United States. Last spring he began planning a journey in cooperation with Michiyoshi Kojima, a 60-year-old Japanese Buddhist monk in Tacoma, and others. They have prepared 4,000 folded-paper cranes thanks to cooperation by local grade and high school students, and have collected some 5,000 signatures to offer an apology for the atomic bomb attack on Japan.

But the drive was taken up by the local media in July and has drawn criticism. Local newspapers carried letters from readers, reading, "An apology to Japan by the United States would be a humiliation to the U.S. soldiers who were killed by the Imperial Japanese Army as well as to U.S. citizens," "Japanese citizens today do not feel responsible for the attack on Pearl Harbor, so we do not feel responsible for the atomic attack," or "If they are going to travel

all the way to Japan, why don't they get an apology from Japanese citizens?"

In an interview with the Asahi Shimbun, Johnny Zerazuni (TN: phonetic), 88, a former Army Lt. Col. said: "The atomic bombing was necessary to end that tragic war. Although I respect President Obama's nuclear disarmament speech, I cannot understand at all why the private citizens who have not experienced the battlefield have to offer an apology to Japan at this point."

News Tribune editorial writer Patrick O'Callahan commented: "In my view, at least 60 percent of U.S. citizens are against the 'journey of repentance.' Opposition is particularly strong in Tacoma where there are many bases." A News Tribune editorial said: "The responsibility for that war and the atomic bombing ultimately does not lie with the United States but with Japan, which attacked Pearl Harbor."

11) Hiroshima peace declaration praises Obama speech

YOMIURI (Page 2) (Full)
August 4, 2009

Hiroshima Mayor Tadatoshi Akiba revealed yesterday the gist of a

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peace declaration he will read out at the Peace Memorial Ceremony (on Aug. 6). In the peace declaration, Akiba praises U.S. President Barack Obama's speech in April. In his speech, the President said: "The United States will aim to create a nuclear free world." Akiba calls the majority of the world that supports the President the "Obamajority." The mayor calls for completely abolishing nuclear weapons by 2020. He concludes his speech by saying: "Yes, we can," quoting Obama's famous words. He has called on the government to improve its assistance for aging atomic-bomb victims.

12) LDP-New Komeito administration calling for enhanced nuclear umbrella obstructing U.S. from policy shift

AKAHATA (Page 1) (Abridged)
August 4, 2009

U.S. President Barack Obama has declared for the first time that the United States will aim for a world without nuclear weapons, setting it as a national goal. Under such circumstances, it has become clear through U.S. documents that Japan's LDP-New Komeito administration's call for the United States to reinforce its "nuclear umbrella," as well as for an extended deterrence, is providing the U.S. with an excuse to adhere to its nuclear weapons and blocking it from making a shift in its nuclear policy.

In reaction to President Obama's Prague speech in April declaring to aim for a nuclear-weapon-free world, Foreign Minister Hiroyuki Nakasone, instead of reacting to the Obama speech in a positive manner as the only country in the world to have suffered an atomic attack, said in a speech on April 27, "Needless to say, extended deterrence, including a nuclear deterrent, is vital for our country." Japan has been asking the United States to strengthen the nuclear umbrella and to enter bilateral talks on that matter.

The United States is in the process of updating the Nuclear Posture Review (NPR), planning to produce a report by the end of the year. The Congressional Commission on the Strategic Posture of the United States, chaired by former Defense Secretary William Perry, released its final report in May. The report includes the following description:

"One particularly important ally has argued to the Commission privately that the credibility of the U.S.' extended deterrent depends on its specific capabilities to hold a wide variety of targets at risk."

As an example of the "specific capabilities," the report cites the Tomahawk Land Attack Missile/Nuclear (TLAM/N) on some attack submarines. The Tomahawk will be retired in 2013. The report also says, "In Asia, extended deterrence relies heavily on the deployment

of nuclear cruise missiles." Nuclear-powered attack submarines capable of carrying the Tomahawk have repeatedly called at Japanese ports.

The report continues to say: "In our work as a Commission, it has become clear to us that some U.S. allies in Asia would be very concerned by TLAM/N retirement." This suggests that Japan is hoping for the prolonged life of TLAM/N. The report goes on to say: "The United States has an obligation to retain numbers and types of nuclear weapons that it might not otherwise deem essential to its own defense."

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The Commission consists of 12 members. Four officials of the Japanese Embassy in the United States are also included in the list of senior foreign officials with whom the Commission consulted in producing its final report.

DEFENSE AND SECURITY

13) Guam relocation: Japan's burden more than twice bilaterally agreed amount for infrastructure construction

AKAHATA (Page 2) (Full)

August 4, 2009

Japan and the United States have now reached an intergovernmental agreement to relocate 8,000 U.S. Marines and 9,000 family members from Okinawa to Guam and to share the cost of constructing a new base on Guam. In this burden sharing, Japan's payment for infrastructure construction on Guam is more than twice the amount agreed on between the Japanese and U.S. governments, with an estimated increase of up to 100 billion yen. This became clear from a U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO) report released July 130.

In May 2006, the Japanese and U.S. governments agreed that Japan would pay approximately 6.1 billion dollars (approx. 580 billion yen) for the construction of a new base on Guam, the total cost of which was estimated at about 10.3 billion dollars (approx. 980 billion yen). The cost of infrastructure construction was estimated at 740 million dollars (approx. 70 billion yen), which includes power generation, water supply and sewerage systems, and waste disposal.

According to a U.S. Defense Department estimate cited in the GAO report, however, Guam's population will rapidly increase with the U.S. military's buildup and its demand for infrastructure will also sharply increase between 2009 and 2020. In concrete terms, the Pentagon estimates an increase of 31% in demand for power, an increase of 89% in demand for drinking water, an increase of 50% in demand for sewerage disposal, and an increase of 230% in demand for waste disposal. The Pentagon estimates the cost needed for the construction of appropriate infrastructure at 1.35 billion dollars (approx. 128 billion yen).

This infrastructure construction is said to be funded by a banking institution. The Japanese government says the loaned money will be recovered with the U.S. military's payments for its use of new facilities on Guam. However, Akira Kasai, a former House of Representatives member of the Japanese Communist Party, asked the government about this point in an April 3 meeting of the House of Representatives Foreign Affairs Committee. In reply to this question, the Defense Ministry's Defense Policy Bureau Director General Nobushige Takamizawa admitted that the loaned money could be irrecoverable and would likely be made up by taxpayers' money.

Moreover, the bilateral agreement of May 2006 sets no clear-cut ceiling to the cost of infrastructure construction. The government may increase the amount of such loans secured by taxpayers' money.

Earlier, the Pentagon had revealed that the estimated total cost of constructing a new base on Guam would be over 15 billion dollars (approx. 1.43 trillion yen).

14) Additional housing planned for U.S. military using 'sympathy' budget

AKAHATA (Page 2) (Abridged)
August 4, 2009

The Japanese government is planning to build additional U.S. military housing for 3,241 families using its 'omoiyari yosan' or literally "sympathy budget." This became known from what was reported in an Aug. 2 online version of the Stars and Stripes, an organization for U.S. forces.

According to that report, the U.S. Air Force will disburse 678 million dollars (approx. 64.4 billion yen) from its budget to renovate 3,745 of 8,344 housing units in Okinawa and will rebuild 3,241 aging housing units with the Japanese government's planning and funding.

Japan's burden is unclear. However, the housing plan totals 2.6 billion dollars (approx. 247 billion yen), far exceeding the U.S. Air Force's estimate. It is possible to presume that the greater part of the housing plan is at the Japanese government's expense.

ZUMWALT